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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/686,705	10/17/2003	Yuuji Sawanaga	243643US-2TTC	8805
22850	7590	02/18/2011	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			NGUYEN, TRAN N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3626	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			02/18/2011	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendment is hereby denied entry because the proposed amendment requires further search and consideration to properly address the new scope, and because the amendment does not place the claims in condition for allowance based on informalities.

Conclusion

In view of the totality of the evidence, the finality of the previous Office Action is hereby maintained.

In the interest of compact prosecution for Applicant, Examiner hereby provides the following suggestion to properly place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 33-34, 36-37 recite similar limitations, as acknowledged by Applicant in the Remarks filed 01/13/2011 (page 17):

Independent Claims 31 and 33-38 recite substantially similar features as Claim 1.

Examiner will address claim 1 as being representative.

Claim 1 recites:

a comparison unit configured to compare the expectancy value to the first threshold value and compare the expectancy value to the second threshold value; and

The limitations “the first threshold value” and “the second threshold value” lack proper antecedent basis because these values have not been previously introduced in the claim scope.

To properly overcome this rejection, Applicant is suggested to amend these limitations to refer to the previously introduced “first predetermined threshold level” and “second predetermined threshold level”.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tran (Ken) N. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-270-1310. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Robert W. Morgan can be reached on 571-272-6773. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3626

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/TN/

Examiner, Art Unit 3626

02/13/2011

/C. Luke Gilligan/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3626